

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS SITUATION - NOON PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT Q'S AND A'S ON CYPRUS SITUATION,
NOON PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 22, CONDUCTED BY DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN ANDERSON:

QUOTE: Q: AT THE MONDAY BRIEFING, AFTER A LENGTHY
EXCHANGE, I CAME AWAY WITH A DISTINCT IMPRESSION, WHICH
I THINK WAS A FAIR IMPRESSION, THAT THERE WAS NO LINK
IN YOUR MIND BETWEEN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS AND THE
DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH HAD GONE ON FOR THE PAST PRECEDING
TIME IN CYPRUS.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THERE WAS A STORY THAT IN FACT, THERE
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WAS A DIRECT LINK, THAT THE SECRETARY HAD SENT A NOTE,

APPARENTLY, TO THE PARTIES INVOLVED, SAYING THAT IF THERE WAS ANY DAMAGE TO THE AMERICANS, THAT THE UNITED STATES ROLE WOULD BE WITHDRAWN.

ANYWAY, IN OTHER WORDS, A 180 DEGREE DIFFERENCE FROM THE IMPRESSION I CAME AWAY FROM THIS BRIEFING WITH.

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT NOTE AT THE TIME OF THE BRIEFING?

A: WELL, LET ME MAKE TWO OR THREE COMMENTS WHICH I HAVE DONE ON A ONE-AND-ONE BASIS IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS ON THIS:

NUMBER ONE, JUST SO IT'S VERY ACCURATE AND VERY CLEAR, THERE WAS NO NOTE SENT. IT WAS ORALLY COMMUNICATED TO THE CYPRIOT EMBASSY HERE AND TO THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT IN NICOSIA.

NUMBER TWO: THE CONCERN THAT THE SECRETARY, AND ALL OF US, HAD ON SATURDAY IF YOU WILL LOOK OVER MY TRANSCRIPT OF MONDAY, I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH STRONGER -- WAS THE QUESTION OF ANY INJURY TO AMERICANS.

AND THE ORAL COMMUNICATION THAT WAS MADE TO THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT, CONCERNED -- NOT THE QUESTION OF FURTHER DAMAGE, BUT IT FOCUSED SPECIFICALLY IF THERE IS "ANY INJURY TO ANY MEMBER OF THE STAFF" AND THEN WE WILL WITHDRAW OUR MISSION. AND THIS WAS THE VERY, VERY STRONG FEELING THAT WE HAD ON SATURDAY -- AND WE STILL HAVE -- BEARING IN MIND STILL, THE QUESTION OF AMBASSADOR DAVIES' DEATH A FEW MONTHS BACK.

NOW THE SECOND POINT THAT WAS MADE, WAS THAT IF THERE WERE INJURY TO AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE STAFF -- OR TO ANY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF -- THAT WE WOULD WITHDRAW OUR MISSION, AND THAT WE WOULD NO LONGER PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

NOW THE SECOND POINT FOLLOWS LOGICALLY, OBVIOUSLY, FROM THE FIRST. BECAUSE IF WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL AMERICANS LEFT IN CYPRUS, AND NONE IN NICOSIA (WHERE THE NEGOTIA-
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TIONS ARE TAKING PLACE) THE FOCUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS, AS WE KNOW, IN NICOSIA, BETWEEN CLERIDES AND DENKTASH -- THEN WE WOULD NOT, OBVIOUSLY, BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

THIS BEING SAID -- I SAID ON MONDAY; "WE STILL FEEL THAT WAY."

Q: MY POINT IS THAT IF THIS WAS KNOWN ON MONDAY, YOU LEFT US WITH A TOTALLY DIFFERENT IMPRESSION. YOU LEFT US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE GOING TO MAINTAIN OUR NEGOTIATING ROLE -- NO MATTERSWHAT.

Q: I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND YOUR ANSWER TO JIM ANDERSON'S QUESTION, WHICH WAS, WHY DIDN'T HE TELL THE WHOLE STORY ABOUT CYPRUS?

A: BECAUSE WE DO NOT PUBLICIZE OUR PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS DECIDED TO RELEASE THE CONTENTS OF THE ORAL COMMUNICATION THAT HAD BEEN MADE.

Q: IS AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD BACK IN NICOSIA YET?

A: HE WAS SUPPOSED TO GET BACK YESTERDAY. HE'S BACK.

Q: COULD YOU EXPLAIN THE RATIONAL OF HOW THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE U.S. MISSION FROM CYPRUS WOULD SERVE AMERICAN INTERESTS?

A: I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON SOMETHING THAT WE SINCERELY HOPE WILL NOT HAVE TO HAPPEN. AND THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING NOW IN CYPRUS CALM HAS RETURNED AND WE HOPE THAT SUCH AN ACTION WOULD NOT HAVE TO TAKE PLACE. OBVIOUSLY, THE WITHDRAWAL OF OUR PRESENCE IN CYPRUS WOULD NOT HELP OUR INTERESTS. WE HOPE THAT IT WILL NOT HAVE TO TAKE PLACE, AND, FRANKLY, AT THIS POINT DO NOT EXPECT THAT IT WILL TAKE PLACE. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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